

## **AUTHORITY, GOAL, AND OBJECTIVES OF CAL FIRE CHAIN SAW PROGRAM**

**1780**

(No. 66 August 2007)

The authority for departmental safety training and development is found in Government Code (GC) § 19995, 19995.1, 19995.2, 19995.5 and 19995.5; DPA Rules 599.815, 599.817, 599.818 and 599.819; Title VII (Cal-OSHA); State Administrative Manual (SAM); and applicable department directives.

The goal of this program is to ensure the safety of the public and the department's employees while chain saw activities are being performed. This is accomplished through a department-approved safety training and skills certification program that is economical, effective and consistent with the needs of the public, the state, and the employee.

### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

**1780.1**

(No. 66 August 2007)

To accomplish this goal, the department intends to pursue these program objectives:

- Ensure the safe use, handling, and storage of chain saws in the workplace.
- Ensure that all department authorized chain saw operators have the appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Provide appropriate education on any potential chain saw health and safety risks.
- Prohibit chain saw operations unless the operator has successfully completed training and has been issued a certification card by an authorized approving official.

### **APPLICABILITY**

**1780.2**

(No. 66 August 2007)

Any person employed by or under the direct supervision of CAL FIRE<sup>1</sup> shall perform all chain saw operations and related activities in accordance with CAL FIRE Handbook 1700 §1780 through §1784.1<sup>2</sup> and CAL FIRE Handbook 4000 § 4034 through § 4036.10.

---

<sup>1</sup> Including, but not limited to, CDC inmates, CYA wards, CCC corps members, and Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements

<sup>2</sup> USDA Forest Service publications FSM 6700 and FSH 6709.11 shall be used as reference or advisory documents only.

## DEFINITIONS

(No. 66 August 2007)

1780.3

<b>CSP</b>	Acronym for “Chain Saw Program”
<b>Unit CSP Coordinator</b>	The person (one per Unit) designated by the Unit Chief to implement department chain saw policy in coordination with the Region Training Chief. The Unit CSP Coordinator <b>should</b> be a C-Certifier. The overall goal is to have every Unit CSP qualified at the C-Certifier level.
<b>Region CSP Coordinator</b>	The person designated by the Region Chief to implement departmental chain saw policy in coordination with the pertinent Unit CSP Coordinator. Must be a C-Certifier (Unlimited) and should have had previous Unit CSP experience. (It is recommended that these individuals NOT simultaneously serve as the Unit CSP Coordinator due to the workload of the Unit CSP position.)
<b>Chain Saw Program Review Board</b>	<p>The Review Board shall consist of four people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CAL FIRE Academy Representative</li><li>• Region Training Chief</li><li>• Region Chain saw Coordinator</li><li>• Department Safety Officer (12/14/06 rev)</li></ul> <p>This group has the authority to remove an employee’s C-Certifier or C-Faller Certification.</p>
<b>Unit Safety Officer</b>	The person (one per Unit) designated by the Unit Chief to implement departmental safety policy in coordination with the Regional Safety Chief.
<b>Unit Training Chief</b>	The person (one per Unit) designated by the Unit Chief to implement departmental training policy in coordination with the Regional Training Chief.
<b>Region Training Chief</b>	The person (one per Region) designated by the Region Chief to implement departmental training policy in coordination with the other departmental training chiefs.

<b>Region Safety Officer</b>	The person (one per Region) designated by the Region Chief to implement departmental safety policy in coordination with the other departmental safety chiefs and/or safety officers.
<b>Class A (Basic) Level</b>	Beginning chain saw operators with limited experience that are authorized to use chain saws primarily for limbing, brushing, and bucking. Class A rated chain saw operators are limited to felling trees up to eight (8) inches in diameter and bucking trees up to twelve (12) inches in diameter. Minimum certification requirements include the successful completion of the classroom portion (14 hrs.) of NWCG S-212 Wildfire Power Saws and a demonstrated ability in chain saw operations to the satisfaction of the instructor.
<b>Class B (Intermediate) Level</b>	<p>Chain saw operators certified at this level are considered more experienced. Intermediate chain saw operators using chain saws for felling, limbing, brushing and bucking are limited to <b>material under twenty four (24) inches in diameter</b> including: straight, normally growing, green trees; green trees with some defect, although mostly sound; and green trees with slight lean. Class B saw operators may also fall snags that do not have a significant potential for material falling from above. Minimum requirement includes the successful completion of NWCG S-212 Wildfire Power Saws.</p> <p>Operators at this level can perform at the next higher level as a trainee under direct supervision of a qualified operator at that level. The instructor may make modifications to tailor the certification to specific work applications.</p>
<b>Class C (Advanced) Level</b>	Chain saw operators that are authorized to use chain saws in the most complex cutting situations, including those involving materials twenty-four (24) inches in diameter and larger. Minimum certification requirements include the successful completion of NWCG S-212 Wildfire Power Saws and a Class C (Advanced) felling certification session and a demonstrated ability in chain saw operations to the satisfaction of the instructor.

<b>Class C Certifier (Unlimited)</b>	A Class C chain saw operator that has been trained through the CAL FIRE Academy sponsored C-Certifier Class to organize and conduct field certification sessions at any level. They have demonstrated communication skills, the ability to transfer and relate concepts to others, and possess current knowledge of policy, regulations, and felling techniques.
<b>C-Certifier Class Coordinator</b>	<p>A person designated at the CAL FIRE Academy by the Academy Administrator that is responsible for scheduling C-Certifier training sessions and creating and maintaining a list of CAL FIRE-approved professional fallers/consultants (from names provided by the Region CSP Coordinators) to be used as C-Certifier class subject matter experts.</p> <p>This person is also responsible for overseeing all C-Certifier training given in the state, in coordination with the Regional Training Chiefs and Region CSP Coordinators, in an effort to uniformly teach and enforce departmental CSP policy statewide.</p>
<b>Advanced CSP Instructor</b>	A certified Class C chain saw operator whom the Unit CSP Coordinator has authorized to <u>teach</u> all levels of students. However, Advanced CSP Instructors are only authorized to <u>certify</u> at the Class A and B levels and not Class C.
<b>Intermediate CSP Instructor</b>	A certified Class B chain saw operator with teaching experience whom the Unit CSP Coordinator has authorized to <u>teach</u> Class A and Class B students. However, Intermediate CSP Instructors are only authorized to <u>certify</u> at the Class A level.
<b>OSHTAC Committee</b>	The Operations, Safety, Health, and Training Advisory Committee (OSHTAC) is a standing seventeen member departmental committee that identifies and reviews issues that affect employee health and safety, the departmental training program, and the departmental operational and emergency management programs. This group reports to the Executive Staff Liaison (Deputy Director, Fire Protection) and makes recommendations to Program as appropriate.

**Structure / Rescue  
Operations**

Additional training element necessary for all chain saw operators, regardless of training level, chain saw who will be involved with structure fire and rescue operations. Structure Operations (Structure Ops.) training will be introduced at the Class A Level, and maintained at all levels where the employee is engaged in these type of ventilation operations.

[\(see next section\)](#)

[\(see HB Table of Contents\)](#)

[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)